**File Code: 2230** 

**Date:** June 1, 2000

Clifford Dean and Tammy Finch P.O. Box 1038 Camp Verde, AZ 86322

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Finch:

This letter is the 2000 Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the Hackberry/Pivot Rock allotment. On January 20, 2000, you and Jerry Gonzales met to discuss management on the allotment for 2000. The following items were discussed and agreed to:

- 1. You applied for, and I approved, 730 head of cattle yearlong, and 17 horses for the 2000 grazing year.
- 2. Unless agreed to in advance by you and Jerry Gonzales, livestock will use the following pastures during the dates indicated below during 2000:

| <u>PASTURE</u>  | GRAZE DATES | LIVESTOCK NUMBERS |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Bull Run        | 1/1 - 1/31  | 633               |
| Lower Towel     | 2/1 - 3/3   | 633               |
| Middle Towel    | 3/4 - 3/23  | 633               |
| Upper Towel     | 3/24 - 4/3  | 633               |
| Pambo           | 4/4 - 4/14  | 633               |
| Dorens          | 4/15 - 4/20 | 683 *             |
| Sycamore        | 4/21 - 4/29 | 683               |
| Jims II/Ladder  | 4/30 - 5/12 | 683               |
| Pipeline/Dogleg | 5/13 - 5/29 | 730 **            |
| Teepee Trap     | 5/30 - 6/3  | 730               |
| Shipping        | 6/4 - 6/6   | 730               |
| East Bedbug     | 6/7 - 6/8   | 730               |
| Huffer          | 6/9 - 6/29  | 730               |
| Baker           | 6/30 - 7/15 | 730               |
| Potato South    | 7/16 - 7/22 | 730               |
| Potato North    | 7/23 - 8/5  | 730               |
| East Bedbug     | 8/6 - 8/9   | 730               |
| Shipping        | 8/10 - 8/11 | 730               |
| Bald 1, 2,3     | 8/12 - 8/19 | 730               |
| Bald 4,5        | 8/20 - 8/28 | 730               |





| <u>PASTURE</u>    | GRAZE DATES       | LIVESTOCK NUMBERS |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Neck 2,3          | 8/29 - 9/11       | 730               |
| Neck 1            | 9/12 - 9/16       | 730               |
| West Bedbug       | 9/17 – 9/23       | 730               |
| Toms              | 9/24 - 10/15      | 730               |
| Calloway          | 10/16 - 10/26     | 730               |
| Sandrock          | 10/27 - 10/31     | 730               |
| Basin             | 11/1 - 11/3       | 730               |
| Basin             | 11/4 - 11/15      | 680               |
| Hackberry         | 11/16 - 12/5      | 630               |
| Tank-in-the-Rocks | 12/6 - 12/30      | 630               |
| Bull Run          | 12/31 - 1/31/2001 | 630               |
| Lower Towel       | 2/1 - 3/3/2001    | 630               |
| Jims I            | 1/1 - 4/14        | 50 Bulls          |
| Heifer            | 1/1 - 1/13        | 50 Heifers        |
| Barn Lot          | 1/14 - 3/15       | 50 Heifers        |
| TeePee            | 3/16 - 3/31       | 50 Heifers        |
| Mesquite Springs  | 4/1 - 4/20        | 50 Heifers        |
| Dog Leg/Pipeline  | 4/21 - 5/12       | 50 Heifers        |
|                   |                   |                   |
| Jims I            | 11/4 - 3/3/2001   | 50 Bulls          |
| Sycamore          | 11/15 - 12/15     | 50 Heifers        |
| <u>Heifer</u>     | 12/16 - 1/20/2001 | 50 Heifers        |

<sup>\*</sup> Includes bulls

- 3. In the Pivot Rock unit of the allotment, the Kehl, Miller, and Clear Creek pastures will be rested in 2000 for plant recovery and to help control elk movements.
- 4. Potato Lake will have to be excluded from livestock grazing before the Potato South pasture can be used in 2000. We have completed the necessary clearances and will provide the materials for you to construct the four-wire (3 barb, smooth wire on bottom) fence around Potato Lake that will tie into the exclosure fence that was completed in 1997.
- 5. Cages will be installed by you and the Forest Service in the following Management Areas within the Huffer, East Bedbug, Potato South and Potato North pastures: Management Area 12 (Riparian) in Huffer; Management Area 5 (Aspen) in Potato South; Management Area 9 (Mountain Grassland) in East Bedbug; and Management Area 3 (Ponderosa Pine) in Potato North.

Exact locations will be determined by you and Jerry Gonzales later this winter or early spring. These cages will be located in Key Areas on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes and where possible, 1/4 - 1 mile from water. Utilization in these four Management Areas will be measured only on key species (see attached chart). Key areas will vary in size from 20 to 500 acres. Riparian and mountain grasslands can be smaller.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Includes bulls and heifers

- 6. Utilization will be measured not only on key species within key areas, as in item #5, but will also be measured by individual pasture prior to livestock entry, after livestock graze, and again at the end of the growing season. Livestock numbers, the graze period, and plant growth will also be recorded by pasture (see attached chart). This monitoring will be completed by you, with some assistance from Forest Service employees.
- 7. The rested pastures (Kehl, Miller, and Clear Creek) will also be monitored for utilization, as a means of tracking elk use. You will use the attached chart to keep track of this. The times of the season when you will monitor will be just before the summer rains (approximately July 1), and at the end of the growing season.
- 8. I am enclosing <u>additional</u> mitigation measures for the Peregrine falcon and the Mexican spotted owl. The enclosure is titled "Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon on Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans." The additional mitigation measures deal with mineral supplements, construction, and gathering activities. The additional mitigation measures will apply in the the areas described in the AOP in the original mitigation enclosure titled "Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments for the Mexican Spotted Owl for the 1998 AOP's." The mitigation measures for the Mexican spotted owl (attached) are part of the 2000 AOP.
- <u>a.</u> Specific salting techniques to be followed, that will avoid livestock concentrations in or immediately adjacent to spotted owl PACs are:

| Pasture       | Salting Technique                            |
|---------------|--|
| Potato North  | No salt within 0.5 miles of Potato Lake Draw |
| Potato South  | No salt within 0.5 miles of Potato Lake Draw |
| Bald 1        | No salt                                      |
| Bald 3        | No salt                                      |
| Bald 4        | No salt east of 136A or 136B roads           |
| West Bedbug   | Salt only east of Cart Cabin Tank            |
| Kehl          | No salt in T12N, R10E, Sections 4,9, and 33  |
| Toms          | No salt in T13N, R9E, Section 28             |
| Sandrock      | No salt within 1/8 mile of Horsetank Wash    |
| Miller        | No salt in T12N, R10E, Section 33            |
| Clear Creek   | No salt                                      |
| 27 Mile       | No salt within 1/8 mile of Horsetank Wash    |
| Horse Pasture | Salt on private land only                    |

- <u>b.</u> Salt will not be placed in mountain meadows or riparian areas or within 1/4 mile of these areas. Salt will not be placed in non-riparian drainages in the ponderosa pine (MA3) areas unless being used for a watershed restoration project.
- 9. In addition to the salting mitigation noted in item #8, the following mitigation measures for the Mexican spotted owl will also be followed:

- <u>a.</u> Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key areas" such as riparian areas, meadows, and oak types. If livestock show an increasing utilization trend, then management will be changed to reduce this trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, make recommendations to the Arizona Game and Fish Department to reduce wildlife numbers.
- <u>b.</u> Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.
- <u>c.</u> Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes of wood vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required on the woody vegetation to promote the three structural stages. If all three age classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of the woody vegetation is acceptable.

#### 10. Range Improvements:

- <u>a.</u> Potato Lake will have to be excluded from livestock grazing before the Potato South pasture can be used in 2000. We will provide the materials for you to construct the fence. b. New Tank in the Calloway pasture will be excluded from livestock use, as soon as it is
- <u>b.</u> New Tank in the Calloway pasture will be excluded from livestock use, as soon as it is determined that the alternative water developed in 1997 proves reliable.
- <u>c.</u> The fence that we constructed that excludes livestock around Cottonwood and Mesquite Springs should be observed by you while cattle are in the Mesquite Springs pasture. Please contact us if you see problems with this exclosure.
- 11. The Neck 4 pasture is not to be used by cattle because of concerns regarding willow and cottonwood regeneration. You are permitted to use this as a horse pasture until and if monitoring notes that impacts to willow and cottonwood regeneration are occurring.
- 12. There will be no crossings of East Clear Creek by livestock in 2000 with the grazing schedule noted above. However, I would encourage you to ride East Clear Creek while cattle are in the adjacent pastures, to ensure that cattle are not in the drainage.
- 13. The livestock exclosure constructed in the headwaters of East Clear Creek in 1997 will not be grazed by livestock.
- 14. At this point, I have no new information regarding the proposed land exchange you have approached me about previously, whereby you would acquire National Forest land in the vicinity of Camp Verde in return for your private property by Clints Well. If you are still willing to pursue this, I would encourage you to consult with the District Ranger who manages the land you are interested in. Ken Anderson at the Sedona Ranger District or Tom Bonomo at the Verde Ranger District would be your contacts. I would also encourage you to send a letter to the Forest Service, once you have identified the National Forest parcel you are interested in, stating your proposal and giving a legal description of both your own land and the National Forest land. There is no guarantee that the Forest Service would take immediate action on your proposal, but at least this would get it on a schedule for consideration and planning.

The same issues we discussed previously regarding base property for the grazing permit would still have to be addressed, also. You inquired about the possibility of changing the base property for your permit. The question to be answered is: "Is the new base property 'equal to or better' than the existing base property"? The adjacency criteria may be less important that the need to

ensure that the new base property is "equal to or better" than the existing base property. We need to have a discussion on this before I would approve the new base property.

15. We were not able to initiate NEPA for the allotment in 2000, because of funding constraints. I will propose that Hackberry/Pivot Rock be considered for NEPA initiation in 2001 at our next round of budget meetings for fiscal year 2001, and will let you know what the decision is as early as possible.

16. This Annual Operating Plan is a part of the Term Grazing Permit, as provided in Part 2, Section 8(a). If you fail to comply with any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1,2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit, we may suspend or cancel your permit, in whole or in part, after written notice. This is found in Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. This AOP complies with the standards and guidelines found in theLMP.

The Annual Operating Plan is appealable and subject to review under 36 CFR 251.82(a)(3) Grazing and livestock permits issued under 36 CFR part 222, subpart A. Appealable decisions apply to written decisions of Forest Service line officers related to issuance, denial, or administration of written instructions to occupy and use National Forest System lands.

I believe this covers all the topics discussed during your meeting with Jerry Gonzales on January 20. If you have any questions, please call Jerry at 354-2216.

This Annual Operating Plan is your copy. It will not be necessary for you to sign and return this letter.

Sincerely,

/Larry G. Sears/

LARRY G. SEARS
District Ranger
Blue Ridge and Long Valley Ranger Districts

#### **Enclosures**

cc: Rodger Zanotto, S.O. cc: Mark Whitney, S.O.

cc: Bruce Palmer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

| Pasture Name    | LMP<br>Mgt<br>Area | Graze<br>Period   | Livestock<br>Numbers | * Plant<br>Growth | **Before<br>Livestock | **After<br>Livestoc<br>k | **End<br>of<br>Growin<br>g<br>Season | **Key<br>Species | % Use<br>on<br>Key<br>Area |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Bull Run        |                    | 1/1 – 1/31        | 633                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Lower Towel     |                    | 2/1 - 3/3         | 633                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Middle Towel    |                    | 3/4 - 3/23        | 633                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Upper Towel     |                    | 3/24 - 4/3        | 633                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Pambo           |                    | 4/4 - 4/14        | 633                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Dorens          |                    | 4/15 - 4/20       | 683                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Sycamore        |                    | 4/21 - 4/29       | 683                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Jims II/Ladders |                    | 4/30 - 5/12       | 683                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Pipeline/Dogleg |                    | 5/13 - 5/29       | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Teepee Trap     |                    | 5/30 - 6/3        | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Shipping        |                    | 6/4 - 6/6         | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| East Bedbug     |                    | 6/7 - 6/8         | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Huffer          |                    | 6/9 - 6/29        | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Baker           |                    | 6/30 7/15         | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Potato South    |                    | 7/16 - 7/22       | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Potato North    |                    | <b>7/23 – 8/5</b> | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| East Bedbug     |                    | 8/6 - 8/9         | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Shipping        |                    | 8/10 - 8/11       | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      | ·                |                            |
| Bald 1,2,3      |                    | 8/12 - 8/19       | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |

<sup>\*</sup>  $\mathbf{D}$  = Dormant  $\mathbf{S}$  = Slow Growth  $\mathbf{F}$  = Fast Grow

<sup>\*\*</sup> N = No use (0-10%) **L** = Light Use (11-25%) **M** = Moderate Use (26-50%) **H** = Heavy Use (51-70%) **E** = Extreme Use (71+%)

| Pasture Name      | LMP<br>Mgt<br>Area | Graze<br>Period | Livestock<br>Numbers | * Plant<br>Growth | **Before<br>Livestock | **After<br>Livestoc<br>k | **End<br>of<br>Growin<br>g<br>Season | **Key<br>Species | % Use<br>on<br>Key<br>Area |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Bald 4,5          |                    | 8/20 - 8/28     | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Neck 2,3          |                    | 8/29 - 9/11     | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Neck 1            |                    | 9/12 - 9/16     | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| West Bedbug       |                    | 9/17 - 9/23     | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Toms              |                    | 9/24 - 10/15    | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Calloway          |                    | 10/16 - 10/26   | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Sandrock          |                    | 10/27 - 10/31   | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Basin             |                    | 11/1 - 11/3     | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Basin             |                    | 11/4- 11/15     | 680                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Hackberry         |                    | 11/16 - 12/5    | 630                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Tank-in-the-Rocks |                    | 12/6 – 12/30    | 630                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Bull Run          |                    | 12/31 -1/31/01  | 630                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Lower Towel       |                    | 2/1 - 3/3/01    | 630                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
|                   |                    |                 |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
|                   |                    |                 |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
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|                   |                    |                 |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |

<sup>\*</sup>  $\mathbf{D} = \text{Dormant}$   $\mathbf{S} = \text{Slow Growth}$   $\mathbf{F} = \text{Fast Grow}$ 

<sup>\*\*</sup> N = No use (0-10%) **L** = Light Use (11-25%) **M** = Moderate Use (26-50%) **H** = Heavy Use (51-70%) **E** = Extreme Use (71+%)

| Pasture Name  | LMP<br>Mgt<br>Area | Graze<br>Period   | Livestock<br>Numbers       | * Plant<br>Growth | **Before<br>Livestock | **After<br>Livestoc<br>k | **End<br>of<br>Growin<br>g<br>Season | **Key<br>Species | % Use<br>on<br>Key<br>Area |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Jims I (Bulls)  |                    | 1/1 – 4/14  | 50                         |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Heifer (Heifers) Barn Lot Teepee Mesquite Springs Dogleg/Pipeline |                    | 1/1 - 1/13<br>1/14 - 3/15<br>3/16 - 3/31<br>4/1 - 4/20<br>4/21 - 5/12 | 50<br>50<br>50<br>50<br>50 |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Jims I (Bulls)  |                    | 11/4 - 3/3/01   | 50                         |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Sycamore (Heifers)  |                    | 11/15 – 12/15   | 50                         |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Heifer  |                    | 12/16 -1/ 20/01   | 50                         |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
|   |                    |   |                            |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |

<sup>\*</sup>  $\mathbf{D}$  = Dormant  $\mathbf{S}$  = Slow Growth  $\mathbf{F}$  = Fast Grow

<sup>\*\*</sup> N = No use (0-10%) **L** = Light Use (11-25%) **M** = Moderate Use (26-50%) **H** = Heavy Use (51-70%) **E** = Extreme Use (71+%)

| Pasture Name                       | LMP<br>Mgt<br>Area | Graze<br>Period        | Livestock<br>Numbers | * Plant<br>Growth | **Before<br>Livestock | **After<br>Livestoc<br>k | **End<br>of<br>Growin<br>g<br>Season | **Key<br>Species | % Use<br>on<br>Key<br>Area |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| GRAZED PASTURES (MA descrip.)      |                    |                        |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Huffer (Riparian)                  | 12                 | 6/9 - 6/29             | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| East Bedbug (Mountain Grassland)   | 9                  | 6/7 - 6/8<br>8/6 - 8/9 | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Potato South (Aspen)               | 5                  | 7/16 - 7/22            | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Potato North (Ponderosa pine <40%) | 3                  | 7/23 – 8/5             | 730                  |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| RESTED PASTURES (MA descrip.)      |                    |                        |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Miller (Riparian)                  | 12                 | Rested                 |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Kehl (Mountain Grassland)          | 9                  | Rested                 |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Kehl (Aspen)                       | 5                  | Rested                 |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
| Miller (Ponderosa pine <40%)       | 3                  | Rested                 |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
|                                    |                    |                        |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
|                                    |                    |                        |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
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|                                    |                    |                        |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
|                                    |                    |                        |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
|                                    |                    |                        |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
|                                    |                    |                        |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |
|                                    |                    |                        |                      |                   |                       |                          |                                      |                  |                            |

<sup>\*</sup>  $\mathbf{D}$  = Dormant  $\mathbf{S}$  = Slow Growth  $\mathbf{F}$  = Fast Grow

<sup>\*\*</sup> N = No use (0-10%) L = Light Use (11-25%) M = Moderate Use (26-50%) H = Heavy Use (51-70%) E = Extreme Use (71+%)

#### **MItigation**

#### Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13-Mile Rock, Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments For Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon

#### **Recommended Mitigation for 13-Mile Rock**

- 1. Follow the grazing guidelines listed in the MSO Recovery Plan:
  - A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key grazing" areas such as riparian areas, meadows and oak types. If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.
  - B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.
  - C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to promote three structural stages. If all three classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.
- 2. To reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover, follow the following guidelines for placing salt and mineral blocks.
  - A. Do not place salt in riparian areas and mountain meadows. Do not place salt in non-riparian drainages in ponderosa pine (MA3) unless being used for a watershed restoration project.
  - B. To avoid placing salt in PAC's, use the following guidelines in these pastures:

| Pasture          | Mitigation for salting                               |
|------------------|--|
| Meadow Canyon N. | No salt  |
| Tule North       | Salt only within .25 miles of 142B Road              |
| Wilber North     | Salt only at Wilbur and Bueno Tanks                  |
| Toms             | Salt only at Pothole, Idas, Back, Dead Tanks         |
| Meadow Canyon S. | Salt south of Section 5 Tank only                    |
| Wilbur South     | No salt within .2 miles Wilbur Canyon or tributaries |

3. On an ecosystem level, to improve overall wildlife habitat conditions, adjacent allotments will coordinate if possible to provide alternating bands of rested pastures across the landscape. Coordinate with the allotments directly to the north and south, so that all three allotments are grazing northern pastures at the same time, or southern pastures at the same time.

For example, 13 Mile will coordinate with the Buckhorn allotment, and when 13-Mile is grazing pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. In order to implement this system, rest Tom's pasture every other year. All allotments will change their plan, as necessary, to coordinate with this allotment management plan.

#### **Recommended Mitigation for Hackberry Pivot Rock**

- 1. Follow the grazing guidelines listed in the MSO Recovery Plan:
  - A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key grazing" areas such as riparian areas, meadows and oak types. If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.
  - B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.
  - C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to promote three structural stages. If all three classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.
- 2. Do not place salt in riparian areas and mountain meadows. Do not place salt in non-riparian drainages in ponderosa pine (MA3) unless being used for a watershed restoration project.

To avoid placing salt in PAC's, use the following guidelines in these pastures:

| Pasture           | Mitigation for salting  |
|-------------------|---|
| Potato North      | Salt at tanks only, but not within .5 miles of Potato Lake Draw |
| Potato South      | Salt at tanks only, but not within .5 miles of Potato Lake Draw |
| Bald 1            | No salt   |
| Bald 3            | No salt   |
| Bald 4            | No salt east of 136A or 136B roads                              |
| West Bedbug       | Salt only east of Cart Cabin Tank                               |
| Kehl              | No salt in T12N, R10E, Sections 4, 9, and 33                    |
| Toms              | No salt in T13N, R9E, Section 28                                |
| Sandrock          | No salt within 1/8 mile of Horsetank Wash                       |
| Miller            | No salt in T12N, R10E, Section 33                               |
| Clear Creek       | Salt only at tanks  |
| Twenty-Seven Mile | No salt within 1/8 mile of Horsetank Wash                       |
| Horse Pasture     | Salt in private land only                                       |

#### **Recommended Mitigation for Walker**

- 1. Follow the grazing guidelines listed in the MSO Recovery Plan:
  - A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key grazing" areas such as riparian areas, meadows and oak types. If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.
  - B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.
  - C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to

## MItigation

promote three structural stages. If all three classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.

## **Recommended Mitigation for Hackberry Pivot Rock**

1. Do not place salt blocks in the south half of the Kehl pasture to reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species cover near the Webber eyrie.

#### **Recommended Mitigation for Walker**

1. On an ecosystem level, to improve overall wildlife habitat conditions, adjacent allotments will coordinate if possible to provide alternating bands of rested pastures across the landscape. Coordinate with the allotments directly to the north and south, so that all three allotments are grazing northern pastures at the same time, or southern pastures at the same time.

# Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon On Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans

The following mitigation measures would apply for Buck Springs, Bar-T-Bar, Willow Valley, Baker Lake/Calf Pen, Apache-Maid, Beaver Creek, Lost Eden, Fossil Creek, Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments.

The purpose of the mitigation measures is to improve and protect habitat for prey species such as birds and small mammals in sensitive areas, and to protect nesting birds from disturbance associated with gathering or construction activities. Thank you for your cooperation.

- 1. Follow these guidelines to meet the intent of the grazing guidelines listed in the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan :
  - A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key grazing" areas such as riparian areas (MA12), meadows (MA9), pine/oak types (MA3), and aspen (MA5). If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, the Forest Service will work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.
  - B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.
  - C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to promote three structural stages. If all three classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.
- 2. To reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover, follow these guidelines for placing salt, mineral blocks or food supplements.
  - A. Do not place these items in riparian areas, mountain meadows, or non riparian drainages in ponderosa pine unless being used for a watershed restoration project.
  - B. Do not place these items in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine falcon nesting areas. The attached map shows areas (shown as mitigation) where salt, supplemental feeding, or mineral blocks should not occur.
  - C. Rotate salt and mineral supplement sites regularly.
- 3. To eliminate potentially disturbing activities in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine nesting areas during their breeding season, do not allow the following types of activities in areas displayed in red on the map between March 1 and August 31 without prior consultation with the district Range Staff.

### **MSO** MItigation

- A. Spring branding or fall gathering.
- B. Construction activities such as; new construction of fences, corrals, or buildings, or cleaning or construction of tanks.

# Additional Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Allotments, Apache Maid, and Beaver Creek Allotments.

These allotments run in an east/west direction. On an ecosystem level, wildlife habitat conditions can be improved by coordination between adjacent allotments to provide alternating bands of rested pastures across the landscape. Each allotment should coordinate with the allotments directly to the north and south, so that all allotments are grazing northern pastures during the same year, or southern pastures during the same year.

For example, 13 Mile will coordinate with the Buckhorn allotment, and when 13 Mile is grazing pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. In order to implement this system, rest Tom's pasture every other year. This year, Buckhorn will change its plan to coordinate with this allotment management plan.

Buckhorn will coordinate with the 13 Mile allotment and Walker Basin. When 13 Mile is grazing north pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest its southern pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. Buckhorn will graze its northern pastures at the same time Walker Basin grazes its northern pastures.

Walker Basin will coordinate with the Buckhorn and Beaver Creek allotments. Apache Maid will coordinate with Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek will coordinate with Apache Maid and Walker Basin.